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frankly recognizes the weight of the expert's opinion and states that "we must not too hastily identify the crossbeam of the barn with the great beam amidship of the *Mayflower*".

The inscription has little persuasive force. His photographer, "a man of very quick vision", who was with him at the time of the discovery of the inscription, quickly read it as R. HARRIS. It might be a fair inference that the photographer was also somewhat of a joker, but Dr. Harris takes him seriously, and at a "somewhat later date" Dr. Harris determines the letters of the mysterious alphabetic sign to be R. HAR*I* and then cheerfully expands it into the necessary lettering for his purpose by adding before the R. the letters MAYFLOWE and in the second word placing the letters W and CH, and the puzzle is solved and we have the hoped-for and looked-for name MAYFLOWER, HARWICH. But the doctor frankly says, "On closer investigation I begin to be sceptical of the letter R which we have suggested to be the terminal of the *Mayflower*."

Nothing material remains to support his hope that he has discovered the timbers of the *Mayflower* except the carvings of a flower on the old door. The photograph of the door which he gives in his book goes far to support the doctor's statement that the carving "is clearly conventional". There is no evidence offered that the door ever came from a ship, and the author's argument is best stated by himself. "If it came from a ship . . . we should expect . . . that the flower had something to do with the ship or her owners. She should be the *Mayflower* or the *Mary Rose* or the *Marigold*."

There is little presented to justify the widely heralded announcement that the timbers of the *Mayflower* have been found in an old English barn. The real value of the book lies in the investigation, very carefully made, which tend to show that one of the owners of the *Mayflower*, Robert Child, lived only a few miles from Jordans, and that Richard Gardiner, a *Mayflower* passenger, may be traced to the same neighborhood.

The Quit-Rent System in the American Colonies. By BEVERLEY W. BOND, jr., Associate Professor of History in Purdue University. With an Introduction by CHARLES M. ANDREWS. (New Haven: Yale University Press; London: Humphrey Milford. 1919. Pp. 492. \$3.00.)

DR. BOND has singled out for fullness of treatment the whole matter of the quit-rent as one item in the colonial land-system. It is a subject which justifies the exhaustive and careful study which he has given to it. The greater portion of colonial lands were held by feudal tenure, and the quit-rent, the chief bond between lord and tenant, was a payment which reached down and affected the lives of most men. It is a study which goes to the bottom of things. It is comprehensive

in time and place, dealing with the subject through the whole course of colonial history and through all the colonies, mainland as well as islands. Students welcome this scholarly work because for the first time there is made known the origin, place, and importance of an obscure and seemingly trivial payment, in a book which is scholarly, logical, and comprehensive.

The first chapter gives a concise account of the English origins of the rent. Feudalism in England was an evolution, having a long history and deep legality behind it. In America a feudal and aristocratic system was supported by neither. The quit-rent in England was a release from burdensome services, in America it was an additional burden upon a debtor class. And the staple of the history of the rent in the colonies is the persistent opposition of the New World to a system of control and vassalage transferred from the Old. The quit-rent played its part in Bacon's Rebellion in Virginia, in the Revolution of 1689 in Massachusetts, in the overthrow of the proprietary régime in South Carolina, and in the agrarian riots in East Jersey and other places. It is to be numbered among the contributory causes of the American discontent after 1765. It was opposed not only by the farmers, but also by land-speculators. The collection and enforcement of the rent furnished a subject of bitter dispute between the popular assemblies and the proprietary or royal officials. It involved the question of payment in specie when the colonies lacked hard money. The history of the rent throws light on the character and personnel of English colonial administration. All these matters, and many others, are fully and clearly explained and described by the author.

Dr. Bond published a preliminary study of the subject in the pages of the *Review* for April, 1912 (XVII. 496-516). This book is the result of great labor and search among additional sources both here and abroad. The book is based upon a wide and careful examination of all discoverable material, printed and manuscript, as is evidenced by copious foot-notes and the bibliography. Indeed the use of unpublished sources found in England, and in collections of historical societies and state archives in this country, would alone entitle the book to a large place in the literature of the colonial era. The author has not only discovered the facts exhaustively, he also explains them logically and clearly in a concrete and rather sober style, and he does not hesitate to pass judgment on the facts.

In one sense the subject is narrow, as dealing with only one item in the colonial land-system. In another sense the study is broad. The manner in which Dr. Bond treats the subject is a good illustration of the large degree of unity in colonial evolution. He treats each colony or feudal area separately, but at the same time he brings out the fact that the quit-rent was a problem common to almost all of the colonies and that the attitude of one colony toward the rent

was of considerable influence on the conduct of other colonies. His study reveals colonial unity in another way, the common relations of the colonies to the home government. Dr. Bond's book about closes the chapter on the quit-rent and hereafter one who wishes to know anything about the matter will refer to this work. No scholar or student of the period can afford to neglect this work, and none but scholars or students will read it.

Professor C. M. Andrews contributes an admirable introduction, setting forth in general terms the importance of the subject, and at the same time pointing out the need of approaching the study of colonial history in a more rational manner than was the case with the older generation of historians.

W. T. Root.

The Royal Commission on the Losses and Services of American Loyalists, 1783 to 1785, being the Notes of Mr. Daniel Parker Coke, M. P., one of the Commissioners during that Period.
Edited by HUGH EDWARD EGERTON, Beit Professor of Colonial History in the University of Oxford. (Oxford: Printed for presentation to the Members of the Roxburghe Club. 1915. Pp. lv, 422.)

THIS handsome and carefully edited volume, which forms a valuable addition to the materials for the history of the American Loyalists, was printed on behalf and in memory of Mr. Whitelaw Reid, late United States ambassador to the court of St. James. As it had been the custom in the Roxburghe Club for each member to bear the cost of publication of a small edition of a single work for distribution among his fellow-members, Mrs. Reid arranged with the president of the club, the Earl of Rosebery, to determine the nature of the volume to be issued as a memorial of her husband as the one American member in this notable little group of Englishmen. Happily Lord Rosebery selected the Coke Papers, which came into the possession of Mrs. Reid on the dispersion of the Phillipps manuscripts, of which they had formed a part, and Professor Egerton was persuaded to undertake the task of editing the papers and of writing the introduction to the volume.

After the distribution of the book in England the surplus copies were sent aboard the steamship *Arabic* for shipment to the donor in America, but were lost when that vessel was torpedoed by a German submarine. The volume has since been reprinted and presented to certain libraries and individuals on this side of the Atlantic.

The Coke Papers comprise the memoranda taken by Mr. Daniel Parker Coke of the evidence presented before the Royal Commission on the claims of the American Loyalists during the time of his connection with that body. In part this evidence consists of 395 memorials, a few of these being joint memorials of two or more claimants, and in part of